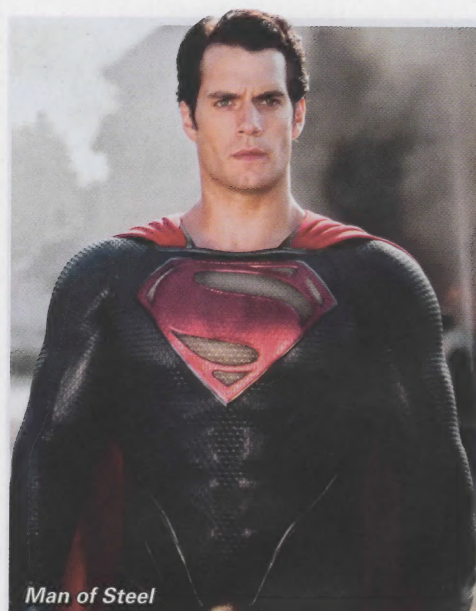


A close-up portrait of actor Henry Cavill, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a red carpet event with bright lights and other people.

# THE SPY WHO THRILLED ME





Man of Steel



The Man From U.N.C.L.E.



What do you get when you cross Superman, Guy Ritchie and Ian Fleming? The movie reboot of *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* of course. Henry Cavill reveals what we can expect from this daring, suave remake.

Henry Cavill laying around on *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* set, with Guy Ritchie and Armie Hammer

If there's one thing Henry Cavill and Guy Ritchie have in common, it's their ability to take something classic and make it their own. For Ritchie it was his highly acclaimed Sherlock Holmes franchise, and for Cavill, it was donning the famous red and blue suit to become Superman in 2013's *Man of Steel*. It's fitting then (as fitting as a superhero in spandex) that they join forces for *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, a story based on the classic '60s spy series which starred Robert Vaughn and David McCallum.

"Guy Ritchie is an amazing filmmaker and he has tried to do something different from what he's done before," says Cavill. "The atmosphere of the story is very unique and I enjoyed playing Napoleon Solo and being part of the chemistry that Guy wanted to create. I would make every movie with him if I had the chance."

Like the original series, co-created by Ian Fleming, the film revels in its carefree approach to the spy genre. Set during the Cold War era, there's plenty of retro glamour and irreverent banter between Cavill and Armie Hammer, who plays his reluctant KGB partner:

"It's cool, sexy, fun, and doesn't take itself too seriously. There's lots of adrenaline and a Swinging Sixties feel to the film," he reveals. Which naturally recalls another of Fleming's famous heroes, James Bond, who ironically Cavill was in the running to play, but missed out to Daniel Craig. However, he insists that Napoleon Solo is a "very different animal" to Bond. "He's NOT for queen and country. He's for

**"Guy Ritchie is an amazing filmmaker... I would make every movie with him if I had the chance"**

Napoleon Solo and Napoleon Solo," he laughs.

Shot on location in Rome, London, the Amalfi Coast and Naples, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* delivers everything you'd expect from a classic spy thriller, including beautiful and dangerous women played by Alicia Vikander and Australia's Elizabeth Debicki as the villainous Victoria Vinciguerra.

Whilst his character in the film may be a fearless cad, Cavill confesses that driving around Rome and the Spanish Steps wasn't as easy as it looked. "I'm not that great a driver and especially not when Armie Hammer is riding in the

back. I confess that I won't be buying a Vespa at any point in the near future."

Success has been hard won for Cavill. Hailing from the remote Island of Jersey and part of a large family with strong ties to the British military – his father served in the Navy, his brother Piers a former army officer, and his brother Nick a Major in the Marines – Cavill assumed that he too would march the same military path, until he discovered acting. Bullied as a child for being overweight, he credits his family for providing the support that has allowed him to flourish into the actor he has become. "I'm much tougher and strong-willed because of all that," he explains. "I was lucky to have wonderfully supportive parents who were constantly encouraging me and helping me achieve my goals in life. I also have great brothers who always stood beside me, and I do the same for them."

Humble, gracious and handsome, Cavill is the quintessential British gentleman with his feet planted firmly on the ground. Superhero and superspy-antics aside, the actor keeps his ego firmly in check.

"Work is important to me, of course, but when your life is drawing to an end, the only thing that you will look back on and think about is all the beautiful times you've spent with the people you love. ☺"

➔ *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* is in cinemas on August 13 and will be reviewed next issue

